

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 137

Introduced by Assembly Member Harper

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Bigelow, Brough,
Eduardo Garcia, Grove, Lackey, Linder, Mathis, and Patterson)**

(Coauthors: Senators Nielsen and Vidak)

February 11, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 137—Relative to John Wayne.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 137, as introduced, Harper. John Wayne.

This bill would recognize May 26, 2016, as John Wayne Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, John Wayne was the prototypical American hero,
2 symbolizing such traits as self-reliance, grace under pressure,
3 resolve, and patriotism; and

4 WHEREAS, Born Marion Robert Morrison on May 26, 1907,
5 in Winterset, Iowa, he moved with his parents as a young boy to
6 California; in 1916, while the family was living in Glendale, he
7 began going by “Duke,” a nickname that followed him throughout
8 his life; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1925, he began attending the University of
10 Southern California on a football scholarship, playing offensive
11 lineman; after sustaining a shoulder injury from a bodysurfing
12 accident in Newport Beach just prior to his junior year, he withdrew
13 from the university and began working at Fox Film Corporation
14 as a laborer moving set props and as an occasional extra in movies;
15 and

1 WHEREAS, While working at the studio, he met Wyatt Earp,
2 who was a consultant to Western film director John Ford, and he
3 would adopt some of Earp's mannerisms for his roles as a cowboy;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The first film in which he was the leading actor
6 gave him the screen name "John Wayne," which he would use for
7 the remainder of his acting career; and

8 WHEREAS, Starring in classic Western films such as
9 Stagecoach, Red River, The Searchers, and True Grit, Wayne
10 personified the archetypal cowboy who is rough-edged and
11 plainspoken but also capable of great warmth, kindness, and
12 generosity; he won an Oscar in 1970 for Best Actor for his role as
13 Rooster Cogburn in True Grit; and

14 WHEREAS, In The Alamo, his first film as a director, John
15 Wayne played the role of Davy Crockett; the film won an Oscar
16 nomination in 1961 for Best Picture; Wayne also directed and
17 starred in a Vietnam-based movie, The Green Berets, which was
18 released in 1968; and

19 WHEREAS, Wayne was an avid supporter of the United States
20 military and toured bases and hospitals throughout the South
21 Pacific in 1943 and 1944 with the United Service Organizations;
22 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1979, engraved
23 with the words "John Wayne, American" encapsulating his entire
24 life; and

25 WHEREAS, John Wayne was one of Newport Beach's most
26 famous residents; he loved the area and was known as a regular
27 guy around town, frequently hosting other famous Hollywood
28 personalities. His beloved yacht, the Wild Goose, a converted
29 Navy minesweeper now owned and operated by Hornblower
30 Yachts is available for tours and charters out of Newport Beach;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, In 1968, the University of Southern California
33 established The John Wayne Scholarship Fund in his honor; and,
34 upon his passing, in 1979, the John Wayne airport located in
35 Orange County then named Orange County Airport, was renamed
36 John Wayne Airport in honor of his achievements and influence,
37 and a nine-foot-tall statute of him was raised at John Wayne
38 Airport; and

1 WHEREAS, John Wayne was laid to rest in 1979 in his favorite
2 place, Newport Beach, California, with a western-theme plaque
3 depicting a cowboy on horseback; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1985, Wayne’s family founded the John Wayne
5 Cancer Foundation to “bring courage, strength and grit to the fight
6 against cancer”; and

7 WHEREAS, John Wayne was inducted into the California Hall
8 of Fame by then Governor Schwarzenegger in 2007; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes May
12 26, 2016, as John Wayne Day; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor
14 of this special occasion and as a tribute to the life of John Wayne.